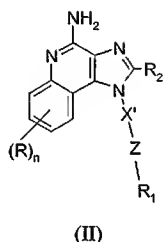


Amendments to the Claims

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present Application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently amended) A compound of the formula (II):



wherein:

Z is -CH=CH- or -C≡C-;

X' is -CH(R₃)-, or -CH(R₃)-alkylene-, ~~or -CH(R₃)-alkenylene-~~;

R₁ is selected from the group consisting of:

- Ar,
- Ar'-Y-R₄, and
- Ar'-X-Y-R₄, and
- Ar'-R₅;

Ar is selected from the group consisting of aryl ~~and heteroaryl both of~~ which can be unsubstituted or can be substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkoxy, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, halogen, nitro, hydroxy, hydroxyalkyl, mercapto, cyano, carboxy, formyl, aryl, aryloxy, arylalkyleneoxy, heteroaryl, heteroaryloxy, heteroarylalkyleneoxy, heterocyclyl, heterocyclylalkylenyl, amino, alkylamino, and dialkylamino;

Ar' is selected from the group consisting of arylene ~~and heteroarylene both of~~ which can be unsubstituted or can be substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the

group consisting of alkyl, alkoxy, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, halogen, nitro, hydroxy, hydroxyalkyl, mercapto, cyano, carboxy, formyl, aryl, aryloxy, arylalkyleneoxy, heteroaryl, heteroaryloxy, heteroarylalkyleneoxy, heterocyclyl, heterocyclylalkylenyl, amino, alkylamino, and dialkylamino;

R_2 is selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen and alkyl, wherein the alkyl group can be unsubstituted or substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl and alkoxy;

~~R_{45}~~

~~$X-R_{45}$~~

~~$X-Y-R_{45}$ and~~

~~$X-R_{57}$~~

X is selected from the group consisting of alkylene, alkenylene, alkynylene, arylene, heteroarylene, and heterocyclylene wherein the alkylene, alkenylene, and alkynylene groups can be optionally interrupted or terminated with arylene, heteroarylene, or heterocyclylene, and wherein the alkylene, alkenylene, and alkynylene groups can be optionally interrupted by one or more -O- groups;

Y is selected from the group consisting of:

$-S(O)_{0-2}-$,

$-S(O)_2-N(R_8)-$,

$-C(R_6)-$,

$-C(R_6)-O-$,

$-O-C(R_6)-$,

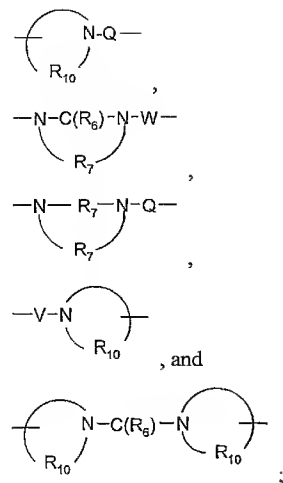
$-O-C(O)-O-$,

$-N(R_8)-Q-$,

$-C(R_6)-N(R_8)-$,

$-O-C(R_6)-N(R_8)-$,

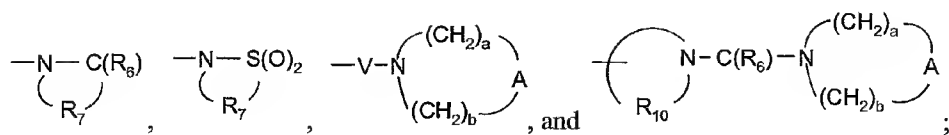
$-C(R_6)-N(OR_9)-$,



R₃ is hydrogen or C₁₋₁₀ alkyl;

R₄ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, arylalkylenyl, aryloxyalkylenyl, alkylarylenyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkylenyl, heteroaryloxyalkylenyl, alkylheteroarylenyl, and heterocyclyl, wherein the alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, arylalkylenyl, aryloxyalkylenyl, alkylarylenyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkylenyl, heteroaryloxyalkylenyl, alkylheteroarylenyl, and heterocyclyl groups can be unsubstituted or substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkoxy, hydroxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, halogen, nitro, hydroxyl, mercapto, cyano, aryl, aryloxy, arylalkyleneoxy, heteroaryl, heteroaryloxy, heteroarylalkyleneoxy, heterocyclyl, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, (dialkylamino)alkyleneoxy, and in the case of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, and heterocyclyl, oxo;

R₅ is selected from the group consisting of:



R₆ is selected from the group consisting of =O and =S;

R₇ is C₂₋₇ alkylene;

R₈ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxyalkylenyl, and arylalkylenyl;

R₉ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and alkyl;

R₁₀ is C₃₋₈ alkylene;

A is selected from the group consisting of -O-, -C(O)-, -S(O)₀₋₂-, -CH₂- and -N(R₄)-;

Q is selected from the group consisting of a bond, -C(R₆)-, -C(R₆)-C(R₆)-, -S(O)₂-, -C(R₆)-N(R₈)-W-, -S(O)₂-N(R₈)-, -C(R₆)-O-, and -C(R₆)-N(OR₉)-;

V is selected from the group consisting of -C(R₆)-, -O-C(R₆)-, -N(R₈)-C(R₆)-, and -S(O)₂-;

W is selected from the group consisting of a bond, -C(O)-, and -S(O)₂-; and

a and b are independently integers from 1 to 6 with the proviso that a + b is ≤ 7;

R is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkoxy, hydroxyl, halogen, and trifluoromethyl; and

n is 0 or 1;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

3. (Previously presented) The compound or salt of claim 2 wherein R₂ is hydrogen, alkyl, or alkoxyalkylenyl.

4. (Previously presented) The compound or salt of claim 3 wherein R₂ is methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, 2-methoxyethyl, or ethoxymethyl.

5. (Previously presented) The compound or salt of claim 2 wherein X' is -CH₂-C(CH₃)₂-, methylene, or propylene.

6. (Previously presented) The compound or salt of claim 2 wherein X' is -CH₂-, -(CH₂)₂-, or -(CH₂)₃-.

7. (Previously presented) The compound or salt of claim 2 wherein R₁ is -Ar.

8. (Currently amended) The compound or salt of claim 7 wherein R₁ is ~~selected from the group consisting of 2-pyridinyl, 3-pyridinyl, and phenyl~~ wherein the phenyl group can be unsubstituted or substituted by alkoxy, haloalkyl, halogen, nitro, or cyano.

9. (Currently amended) The compound or salt of claim 8 wherein R₁ is phenyl, 3-chlorophenyl, 4-chlorophenyl, 3-fluorophenyl, 4-fluorophenyl, 3-methoxyphenyl, 4-methoxyphenyl, 3-trifluoromethylphenyl, or 4-trifluoromethylphenyl, ~~2-pyridinyl, or 3-pyridinyl~~.
10. (Canceled)
11. (Previously presented) The compound or salt of claim 2 wherein Z is -C≡C-.
12. (Previously presented) The compound or salt of claim 2 wherein Z is -CH=CH-.
13. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound or salt of claim 2 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
14. (Withdrawn) A method of inducing cytokine biosynthesis in an animal comprising administering an effective amount of a compound or salt of claim 2 to the animal.
15. (Withdrawn) A method of treating a viral disease in an animal in need thereof comprising administering an effective amount of a compound or salt of claim 2 to the animal.
16. (Withdrawn) A method of treating a neoplastic disease in an animal in need thereof comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound or salt of claim 2 to the animal.
- 17.-18. (Canceled)